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THINK BIG  WE DO™

PHYSICAL THERAPY



University of Rhode Island
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Spring is here!

Contents

It's that exciting time of year again! We get to celebrate another class as they graduate from their role as students and enter into their professional careers. As the class of 2015 prepares for the big graduation day, the class of 2016 eagerly awaits putting their past 2 years of education into practice as they prepare to start their clinical rotations. The class of 2017 have finished their first and most vigorous academic year and look forward to becoming mentors to the incoming class of 2018.

Since the fall of 2014, the program has been involved in collaborating with professionals worldwide. Many students traveled to different parts of the world as part of their broadening experience to learn about physical therapy in other countries. Other students have been hard at work publishing articles, working with the military and advocating for the PT profession.

During this exciting time we wish all students in the DPT program much success as they take their next steps!

Page 1 - Director's Words

Page 2 - Belgian Visitors

Page 3 - Clinical Impact

Page 4 - Alumni Spotlight

Page 5 - Broadening

Page 6 - Upcoming Events

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Words from the Director:



I don't make promises that I can't keep! However, I will promise you that when you are reading this newsletter hot off the press the snow and frigid weather will be in your rearview mirror! This time of the year brings a variety of emotions to those involved with the URI DPT Program. Our first year students check off the box for completing year one. Our second year students check off the box for year two, conquer their competency exams, and prepare for their full-time clinical experiences. Our third year students complete their full-time clinicals, enjoy the excitement of commencement, and then enter the final push toward their licensure exam. And while all of the current students complete a milestone, the class of 2018 eagerly awaits all that lies ahead of them for the next three years! The faculty are excited to see all of the students progress

through each phase of the program, and especially to see those recent graduates who are just beginning to realize how much they know and don't know all at once in their first jobs. As the program continues to prosper, we are looking forward to the CAPTE team to visit us in September and review our accreditation status. The past year has required all of us to take a closer look at all aspects of the program from an evaluative perspective. While we are far from perfect, this process will no doubt make us better. Finally, on a sad note, Professor Samantha Brown and her family relocated. We will miss Sam, and wish her all the best in her future. To all of you alumni, clinical instructors, and partners of our program, I wish you a happy and healthy summer!

Jeff Konin

Professor and Chair

Ph.D., PT, ATC, FACSM, FNATA



Alumni Spotlight:

Marc Bochner

PT, CCCE

Marc is currently a physical therapist at Liberty Physical Therapy and also serves as their CCCE. He is also the owner of Bochner's Realistic Self-Defense Training and Fitness Center, as well as Bochner's Body Therapy: Fitness and Kickboxing classes.

Continued on page 5

Belgian Students Visit URI

Nel Aelbrecht and Elisa Baert, two physical therapy students from the University of Ghent, Belgium visited the University of Rhode Island for a few days in February. They participated in physical therapy classes such as cardiopulmonology, management, and neuro therapeutics to experience how students in the U.S. learn about physical therapy. Aelbrecht and Baert taught the URI PT students about their education in Belgium. According to Aelbrecht and Baert, PT students start with a 3-year bachelor degree then pick a “specialty” to start a 2-year masters program. Aelbrecht hopes to receive a masters in pediatrics and Baert hopes to finish her masters in orthopedics and then pursue another for internal diseases.

Aelbrecht and Baert were hosted by URI PT Assistant Professor, Jennifer Audette P.T., Ph.D. before they started the clinical component of their visit in Providence, RI. Audette has known colleagues from the University of Ghent for 8 years and has hosted their

students throughout the years. “It is fun to host young people who are eager to learn more about the U.S. and more about PT practice.” Audette said. In regard to her experience, Baert said, “I have learned so much here! Because you guys sometimes have different techniques, I was always challenged to

compare to what I learned, to review my notes from home, to come up with new stuff. I cannot tell you how good this has been for me!” Aelbrecht said, “It’s really fun to see how good all of you get along and how we were welcomed into the group! I really want to thank everyone who has been part of this experience, it would not have been the same without all of you!” The URI PT faculty and students agree, having Aelbrecht and Baert was a privilege and wish them the best of luck with their future endeavors.



Behind the Scenes

As a look behind the newsletters, the Graduate Assistants for our Fall and Spring semesters have put in the hard work to make these possible. Producing a newsletter of the program’s accomplishments each semester is only one job on top of their commitment to the first year class pairing. To recognize their dedication, we’ve listed the GA’s from this year below:

Fall 2014

- Abbey Lamb
- Jenna Fitzsimmons
- Chelsea Anderson
- Francesca Mainiero
- Shannon McConnell
- Cammie Marler
- Laura Costa

Spring 2015

- Abbey Lamb
- Jenna Fitzsimmons
- Cammie Marler
- Kayla Matuszewski
- Kristen Cavaco
- Maggie Deardorff
- Laura Thompson



DPT Student's Clinical Impacting Keesler Air Force Base

Mary Kelly from the URI DPT class of 2015 is currently in the process of completing her 3rd clinical rotation at the Keesler Air Force Base Medical Center in Biloxi, MS. As a physical therapy intern she provides care in the Outpatient clinic and the hospital 5 days a week. During her rotation her schedule is split up so that she spends 1.5 days in inpatient, 3.5 days in outpatient, and the remaining day is devoted to case study presentations, pathology presentations and lab time.

During her time spent in the inpatient setting she treats ICU, general medical, and post surgical patients. Post surgical patients are top priority and are seen the same day as surgery for early mobilization. While in the outpatient setting she treats active duty, family members, and retired military personnel. She explains they use a hypothesis based reasoning model with CI's and it allows her as a student to constantly be reviewing pathologies, etiologies, and different systems with each initial evaluation.

In the military setting physical therapists have direct access, are able to prescribe certain medications, and order imaging and labs. She explains, "This has been an amazing



part of the internship, because we are seeing first hand the value of our profession

and proficiency in differential diagnosis and medical screening exams." She goes on to say "I have found this to be an amazing learning experience and have developed not only my clinical skills, but my confidence in my application and reasoning of them as well. I have many CI's and mentors that each provide insight and perspective for patient care and have developed a culture of learning, family, and personal health."

Recently photos of Mary hard at work have been published on the Keesler Air Force: Base website.

<http://www.keesler.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123441272>

Mary's Mentors: Major Jeremiah Samsom, PT, OCS, COMT, FAAOMPT, Captain Erick Jackson, DPT, Dr. Brienna Fraser, Dr. Joanne Rhodes, Dr. Jacob Melnick, OCS, USTF 1 and Captain Jessica San Felippo



Alumni Spotlight

Marc Bochner, PT, Owner of Bochner's Realistic Self- Defense Training & Fitness Center

1. **Could you describe your experience of applying and being a part of URI's PT program?** "I remember being a senior kinesiology major, deciding which way I wanted my life to unfold. I knew I could become a personal trainer, I could continue to run my martial arts school, or I could further my education by applying to the URI PT Department. I remember being on the fence about whether to apply, having a GPA, that was slightly under the average acceptance GPA at the time. I had a meeting (which was one of my only meetings with my academic counselor) and he urged me to apply stating that, that was the average GPA acceptance. On my way to my PT interview my car actually broke down - so already being nervous for my PT interview, the added stress of possibly being late for my appointment was definitely on my mind. Fortunately, my first interviewers was with Dr. Audette, who I always felt was of the one of the friendliest and most genuine instructors in the program. I remember she asked me how my day was going, and with a big smile I said besides my car breaking down, its going well. She let out a smile, a laugh and it set the tone for the rest of my interviews."

2. **What was your greatest memory or most beneficial part of the URI PT program?** "My greatest memory of the program was how well it bonded me to my classmates. As we know, we are with the same classmates for the better part of 3 years, having similar experiences, and creating the same irrational fears. I can look back with fond memories of how we would study and meet after class or on the weekends, putting almost everything secondary to this profession. I smile passionately when my mind remembers all those times we had together. The most beneficial part of the program for me was how it helped develop my determination and focus. The continuous integration of new information, the hours of studying, and the weekly examinations streamlined how I studied and how much effort I put into my desires. As I focus on future endeavors I often remind myself how disciplined I became and my willingness to devote the time and energy to achieve my goals."

3. **What was your experience immediately after graduating from URI to become part of the Physical Therapy Field?** "I remember I would watch other PTs and see how they did things and try to learn from them as well as my own independent study. URI trained me to be a physical therapist, however, for me it's really about the experience of being a practitioner – problem solving and creating the solutions."

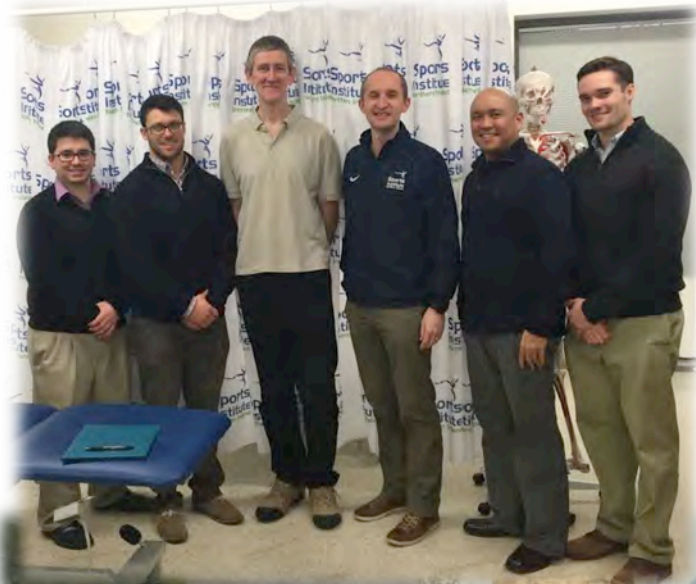
4. **What are you most proud of in your PT career thus far?** "I am very proud of eliciting change in my patients, and creating my own following of patients. As we all know it's an indescribable feeling when people stop by the clinic just to thank you for doing your job. I am also very proud that I have learned to use my degree in other productive ways. Currently I have designed and I am teaching a fitness and kickboxing program using the principles of the martial arts, fitness, and physical therapy. This class can be a standalone class for people who have impairments and need an educated person to adapt the program for them, or serve as a follow up after they have been discharged from a physical therapy program."

Broadening Experiences: PT around the world!

This year URI's 2nd year class went on their Broadening trips to Guatemala, Romania, Nepal, Hawaii, New Zealand, Ireland, Florida and specialty settings in the Northeast. Broadening experience is an opportunity for our DPT students to not only expand their cultural awareness, but also gain knowledge in the role of a PT in other areas around the world. It is a two-week trip where students are immersed in a new physical therapy setting where they develop their patient interaction skills and innovation for treatment. Students have the option to travel internationally as well as travel in the US to a specialty setting for their broadening experience.



The trips to Guatemala, Romania, Nepal, New Zealand, and Ireland focused on engaging the students in those countries' ways of medical practice and role of physical therapy. In addition, the trip to Hawaii focused on alternative therapy with surfing and Florida was a sport-integrated practice. The group of students that stayed in the Northeast were able to experience the alternative therapy of hippotherapy and work in the Oncology Unit at Hasbro Children's Hospital.



Pictured: Transitions Foundation basketball team in Antigua, Guatemala

Upcoming Events

May

Wrap-up week for 3rd years is the week before commencement.

Class of 2015 Graduation

URI Graduate School and Hooding Ceremony

- Location: Swan Hall, Kingston Campus
- Date: May 16, 2015 at 9 am starting with brunch served

Visit <http://www.uri.edu/commencement/> for updated commencement information.

2nd Annual Distinguished Series Lecture featuring Dr. Jennifer M. Bottomley, PT, MS, PhD

Physical Therapy Department

- Location: Swan Hall, Kingston Campus
- Date: October 17, 2015



Mission



URI PHYSICAL THERAPY

The Physical Therapy faculty is dedicated to graduating doctors of physical therapy competent in providing physical therapy to a variety of patient/client populations in Rhode Island and nationwide; who value the need for and use of evidence in practice; who are committed to professional development through life-long learning; and are active contributors to their professional and social communities. The faculty aspires to advance the theory and practice of physical therapy and provide service to the University, State, and Nation, through works that promote the profession, interacting communities and related disciplines.

The program is highly selective and seeks candidates who exhibit a combination of success in the sciences, a broad understanding of physical therapy practice, dedication to their community, and potential for success in the Program. The curriculum is designed to challenge students toward excellence in clinical practice, professional behavior, and service.